

pulled over. There were 20 people in this RV and a caravan of media behind us. KEN was as calm as he could be. He pulled over to the side of the road, the deputy comes up—with his big cowboy hat on—and KEN rolls down the window and says: Can I help you?

Of course, we think he is getting a ticket for speeding, and he was ready to accept whatever this was. But the deputy says: Sir, your license tabs are in the wrong corner.

And so KEN said: Oh, so sorry. And he gets out with this deputy looking on and with the caravan of media behind with all the cameras, and a press guy yelling: This is off the record.

So KEN's picture is there in the Denver Post trying to change his license tabs around the corners.

But it was KEN SALAZAR who wanted to have that moment and that freedom of driving through the mountains of Colorado at whatever the cost, and he will be a true tribute to his home State and to this country.

I am taking over the Prayer Breakfast from KEN, and I have seen firsthand his great faith in God but also the faith he has in his family, whom I see here, and the people of this country. We are all very lucky to have him, though we will miss him as a mentor and friend in the Senate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to strongly support my friend and colleague, Senator KEN SALAZAR, as President-elect Obama's choice to lead the Department of the Interior.

For reasons I will explain shortly, I believe this man—a fifth generation son of the West whose ancestors settled Santa Fe before America gained independence—is uniquely qualified and experienced to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I am very proud to have served the State of Colorado with him. He is an outstanding public servant and he will make an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

Our colleagues in the Senate are well aware of Senator SALAZAR's excellent record of leadership here—he has worked across the aisle and with diverse stakeholders on many issues ranging from health care to national security.

As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, KEN has worked to extend critical renewable energy tax credits, protect our natural resources and encourage environmentally responsible development of domestic energy sources. I've been proud to work with him on a wide range of issues, including protection of our public lands and water resources in Colorado. I'm especially proud of our work together to pass legislation that allowed a lovely older woman, Betty Dick, to pass her final days in peace on land she treasured at the Rocky Mountain National Park.

KEN, I think Betty would be proud of you today too.

Even before his time in the Senate, KEN has been a recognized leader in the

West. As a farmer and rancher, KEN has always had a close relationship with the land and with rural communities. He has spoken eloquently about what he calls "the forgotten America" and he has been a steadfast champion of the land, water and people of the West.

As the executive director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources, KEN used his unique background and experience to protect the environment and Colorado's communities, educate youth about our natural resources, and defend Colorado's water.

He helped create Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, and led it to become one of the most successful land conservation programs in the country.

While serving as Colorado's Attorney General, KEN worked to make our communities safer and address gang violence. He also led efforts to preserve open space during his two terms as Attorney General, where he was well-known as a champion of the natural environment.

KEN will bring his rural values—hard work, honesty, and integrity—to the Department of Interior and help address the many challenges facing this Department. From addressing Interior's ethical lapses to tackling our country's lack of transmission infrastructure, KEN will work hard to put the Department of the Interior back on the right track.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Senator SALAZAR's family and, in particular, his mother, Emma. Like her sons, she is a remarkable Coloradan. I had the opportunity to visit her at the Salazar ranch, Los Rincones, last year.

And if her son, KEN, demonstrates the same indomitable spirit, strength of character and wisdom of his mother—and I believe he will—he should be an outstanding Secretary of the Interior.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Senator SALAZAR as the Secretary of the Interior.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Executive Department  
Dover

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Delaware, I, Ruth Ann Minner, the governor of said State do hereby appoint EDWARD E. KAUFMAN a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., is filled by election as provided by law.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State, at 5:22 p.m., this 15th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America Two Hundred Thirty-Two.

RUTH ANN MINNER,  
Governor.

HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

Mr. KAUFMAN, escorted by Mr. BIDEN and Mr. CARPER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Thank you very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. On behalf of all Senators, I congratulate and welcome our new colleague, TED KAUFMAN, to the Senate. Senator KAUFMAN earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University, his MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He moved to Delaware to work for the DuPont Company, as many people have done over the years, working in finance, technical, and marketing positions.

When JOE BIDEN was elected at the age of 29, in 1973, Senator BIDEN asked TED to take a leave from DuPont to help him set up his new office in Washington. Senator BIDEN asked TED for 1 year, only 1 year. He, of course, has given him a lot more than that.

This is a remarkable tenure. It shows TED KAUFMAN's extraordinary loyalty to the service of his country by working for Senator BIDEN.

There is only one JOE BIDEN. Senator KAUFMAN will replace him, but no one will ever fill the shoes of JOE BIDEN. As was said on this floor yesterday at great length, JOE BIDEN is a unique individual. But Senator KAUFMAN has known Senator BIDEN for a long time and worked with him, up real close. He